MCG Today

Medical College of Georgia, Fall 1980, Vol. 9, No. 3

The elderly view the aging process

MCG Today

Medical College of Georgia, Fall 1980
Vol. 9, No. 3, USPS 867340

BEHIND THE LINES

For years we have been accustomed to the end of the year contribution rush in December, but now there is also a June 30th rush. This is the deadline for Century Club and Aesculapius Club memberships, and this year it was very encouraging!

The next issue of **MCG Today** will include the names of the 1979-80 fiscal year members, and to each of them a sincere word of appreciation. MCG alumni from all five schools, and many friends who are not alumni, have enthusiastically participated in the annual special giving clubs program.

The basic concept is this: One gift during the fiscal year does it all. It pays your alumni dues, it gives you a tax deductible contribution, and it qualifies you for club membership.

One extraordinary program has become the favorite of more and more alumni and friends. It is called PACT. It's easy to get into, and then a set amount is automatically deducted from your checking account each month. PACT is an acronym for Pre-Authorized Contribution Transfer. And it has all of the same benefits listed above, plus extra convenience.

You might want to send for a PACT folder to see how it works. Write to:

Coordinator, PACT
MCG Alumni House
Augusta, Georgia 30912
or
telephone (404) 828-4001

During the past year nine members of The Founders Club joined for a total of thirty-five. More are contacting us each month. We will have additional information on these new members in the next issue. They include:

Raymond P. Ahlquist, Ph.D.
Augusta, Georgia

William Jackson Atha, Jr., M.D.
Rome, Georgia

Henry Gordon Davis, Jr., M.D.
Sylvester, Georgia

Harry E. Dawson, Sr., M.D.
Shannon, Georgia

Taher Abdel M. El Gammal, M.D.
Augusta, Georgia

Atwood McGowen Freeman, Jr., M.D.
Albany, Georgia

John Paul Jones, M.D.
Macon, Georgia

Jerry G. Purvis, M.D.
Valdosta, Georgia

Beverly B. Sanders, Jr., M.D.
Macon, Georgia

A last note of interest: A good friend who has provided tremendous leadership to the Medical College of Georgia since he was Student Body President in 1948, including President of the School of Medicine Alumni Association, has recently announced his marriage to the very lovely Melody Hargett. Dr. Harrison is currently President of the MCG Foundation.

STAFF:

James C. Austin
Executive Editor

Alex H. Vaughn
Managing Editor

Doug Vinson
Editor

Garon Hart
Design

Editorial Staff:
Jenny Lou Jones
John Donnelly
Susan Baldwin
Julie Guillebeau

MCG Today (USPS) is published quarterly by the MCG Foundation and the Division of Institutional Relations, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Ga. 30912. Second-class postage is paid at Augusta, Ga.

CONTENTS:

Nursing students take new look at old age 1

Campus News 2

"eine faszinierende Frau" 6

They occasionally trade their stethoscopes for anchors 8

Medical students begin teaching elementary students 10

Dental alumni president looking to the future 13

There's an 'apple' for the teacher 14

The courts and the campus—an entangling web of legal issues 16

Class Notes 18

COVER:

Graduate nurses at MCG study innovative approaches in taking care of the elderly. Story on page 2.

Nursing students take new look at old age

by Doug Vinson

For all of the excitement and enthusiasm shown by the actors, one would have thought it was opening night on Broadway.

In reality, the play, "The Giving Tree," was performed by a group of senior citizens from the Augusta community before a small audience of graduate nursing students.

The play symbolically depicts the process of aging. A tree standing in the middle of the stage is the focal point for the drama. In the first scene, the tree is young and healthy. It has sturdy limbs and is covered with fruit and leaves. A young boy comes to visit the tree and thereafter, the tree becomes the hub of his play. The tree gives the boy its fruit. He enjoys climbing the tree's limbs, gathering its leaves, and sitting in its shade.

The following scenes show the boy coming back to the tree at various stages of his life. As he gets older, he visits the tree less frequently. Eventually, the boy grows up, marries, and moves away.

In the last scene, after a considerable amount of time has passed, the boy comes back to visit the tree. The tree is glad to see him, but says it can't offer the boy anything, because it is old and of no use to anybody.

"I'm sorry, boy, but my apples are gone."

"My teeth are too weak for apples," says the boy.

"My branches are gone," said the tree. "You cannot swing on them."

The boy tells the tree how much all of the things the tree has given to him have meant over the years.

"I don't need very much now," said the boy, "just a quiet place to sit and rest."

"Come, boy, sit down. Sit down and rest."

"And the boy did, and the tree was happy and the boy was happy."

In a nutshell, that's what Nursing 801, a graduate course in gerontology in the school of Nursing at MCG, is all about — teaching students that elderly people are not just "old stumps." The innovative course, taught this past spring by Loretta Lukens, an assistant professor in adult nursing and Catherine Horan, an adjunct faculty member used many creative methods in understanding the needs of the elderly.

"The main purpose of the course is for students to develop skills in caring for the aged by assessing the needs of the elderly and then seeing what they can do in the way of preventive health care. In this way the elderly can function at their maximum potential. This is done through class discussion, helping the student develop a relationship with an elderly person, keeping a clinical log on that person, and also by working on a group project," says Lukens.

For her group project Jean Taff recruited senior citizens to perform in the play. They made the costumes, rehearsed the play several times, and performed it before several groups around the city.

"Working with these people has really changed my perspective on aging. It has made me see you can have a zest for life, even when you are old. The elderly have a lot to give. This course has definitely made me more appreciative of older people," says Taff.

Horan, one of 230 gerontological clinical nurse specialist in the country, says that often the only exposure nursing students have to older people is the contact they have in nursing homes. This gives them a distorted picture of the elderly. She feels it is extremely important for health professionals to have the opportunity of working with healthy, self-sustaining elderly people who only need help in maintaining their health through preventive health care.

"In gerontology, the focus of study is on the preventive elements of nursing care. Too often, the emphasis in traditional nursing courses has given too much attention to treating chronic illness. There is a great need to spend more time seeing what we can do to maintain wellness. If we were going to take a course in marriage, you wouldn't start out by teaching about divorce, would you?"

Teaching programs and research papers developed by the other 14 students in the class included projects on oral hygiene, arthritis, accident prevention and safety for the elderly, suicide, and exercises for the elderly.

Elizabeth Burch, Karen Sorrow, and

Checking over the script . . .

Preparing . . .

Linda Taylor developed a syllabus on oral health for the aging adult. It included a list of area dentists who accept elderly patients. A slide program and a lecture arranged by the group and presented by a dentist were well received by residents of a local retirement hotel.

At the same retirement hotel, an exercise class was organized by Jeannine Arline, Patty Garrett, and Joy Conger. Additionally, a program on the problems of arthritis and the elderly was put together and presented by Bruce Davenport, Beverly Garren, and Pam Thompson to residents of the hotel.

Mary Chiotellis, Cheryl Garrett, and Shannon Swain developed a self-explanatory reference for personal safety guidelines for the aged. They workd with elderly clients in determining safety hazards in their apartments. While doing their research, they discovered 26 percent of all accidents involve the elderly, with the highest incidence among elderly men. Over half of these accidents occur in the home.

Suicide in the elderly accounts for 25 percent of all successful suicides, and the elderly comprise only 10 percent of the population. Dee Adinaro and Alicia Blessington's paper on this topic identified some of the primary motives as feelings of not being wanted, being a burden to family members, retirement, loss of beauty, and social isolation.

Lukens says there are many misconceptions concerning the elderly.

"We forget they have the same needs as everyone else. Sometimes we treat them in a very condescending manner, and we don't respond to them when they have legitimate problems. We are a labelling society, and once we stick the label of 'senile,' 'helpless,' or 'useless' on an elderly person, we make it difficult for them."

In order to help nurses understand some of the difficulties the elderly have, Lukens and Horan had the class play a game in which the students drew cards noting various disabilities and stereotypes. The students then had to try to carry out the daily living tasks with the label or the handicap they had selected.

"It wasn't long before some of the students started getting frustrated and angry. It gave them a real feeling of how an elderly person feels in trying to get along in our society," says Horan.

The true worth of a course can be measured by seeing new information assimilated and deeper understanding of a subject being developed by the students. This was certainly illustrated well in the lively discussion which followed the presentation of "The Giving Tree."

The students asked the senior citizens questions on everything from how it feels to have dentures to what it is like to cope with the loss of a spouse.

It was somewhat ironic that during the course of the questioning, the needs and desires of the senior citizens were much the same as the young graduate nurses. They wanted to be respected; they wanted more social outlets; and the women (who greatly outnumbered the men) wanted to meet wholesome, available men.

"I think the students learned much about themselves in this course as well as they did about nursing care for the elderly, and that's what real education is all about," says Lukens.

Youth . . .

Maturity . . .

Old age . . .

Prominent Georgians named to Foundation

Hailey

Shirley

Baxter

Three Georgia residents have been named to the board of directors for the MCG Foundation, Inc., it has been announced by James C. Austin, the foundation's executive director. The three are Dr. Chenault W. Hailey, Dr. William C. Shirley, and Arthur C. Baxter.

Dr. Hailey, an Atlanta dermatologist, is a graduate of the University of Georgia and received his MD from the Medical College of Georgia. He served his internship at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta and his residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

He is a fellow in the American Academy of Dermatology and has served as president of the Georgia Society of Dermatologists and the Atlanta Dermatological Association. Dr. Hailey is chief of dermatology at Crawford W. Long Hospital in Atlanta and serves as assistant professor in dermatology at Emory University.

Dr. Shirley, a Macon specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, graduated from Mercer University and received his MD from the Medical College of Georgia. His internship was at Macon Hospital and his residency was at the Medical College.

He is president elect of the Medical College of Georgia Alumni Association, serves as a trustee of Mercer University, and is on the board of managers of the MCG Alumni Association. In Macon, Dr. Shirley is a member of the Rotary Club and the Highland Hills Baptist Church.

Baxter, the third new member of the foundation board of directors, is executive vice president of the First National Bank of Atlanta and corporate vice president of First Atlanta Corporation. He received his BS from the Citadel in Charleston, and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He also attended the Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

Active in Atlanta civic affairs, Baxter serves as a director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Community Foundation, the Georgia Freight Bureau, Atlanta Civic Enterprises, and the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Col. McKinney honored

The U.S. Army awarded the Meritorious Service Medal to Col. Ralph V. McKinney Jr., professor and chairman of the department of oral pathology at MCG's School of Dentistry, for "exceptionally meritorious service while serving as commander of the 333rd Medical Detachment (Dental Service), United States Army Reserve from Feb. 1, 1975 to Dec. 1, 1979.

The award, the Army's third highest medal for meritorious achievement, cites Col. McKinney's "organizational abilities and military expertise in making the 333rd Medical Detachment one of the most outstanding units in the United State Army Reserve." The citation further commends Col. McKinney for his achievement during this period in organizing and coordinating the United States Army Reserve dental health care support activities at three active army installations in Georgia, Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Gordon.

Epilepsy organization receives grant

A grant totaling $11,069 has been awarded by the Georgia Department of Human Resources for Family Involvement in Epilepsy at the Georgia Rehabilitation Center in Warm Springs.

The one-year funding will be used for housing and transportation of families of epileptics for weekend seminars at the rehabilitation center. The seminars will inform the families plus the patient about epilepsy and its causes, and effective medications.

Dr. Joseph B. Green, Medical College of Georgia chairman of neurology, is director of the project. Stephanie Posson, former principal investigator, is now at MCG; Johnny Harrell, Warm Springs, is the principal investigator.

Dr. Stoddard visits China

Dr. Leland Stoddard, professor of pathology, was among the first group of American pathologists to visit the People's Republic of China. The group was invited to visit in June by the Chinese Medical Association and the Chinese Society of Pathology.

Stoddard and the other American pathologists visited several cities, attended meetings to allow for scientific interchange and toured institutes, medical colleges and hospitals. The Americans gave lectures on their research work and reports on recent advances in pathology.

Student scholarships

Three MCG students have been given private scholarship funds to continue their education.

Gregory J. Sherry and Mark C. Meier each received a $500 C. D. Whitaker Memorial Scholarship.

Sherry, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Sherry of Oletha, Kan., formerly of Lawrenceville, earned his undergraduate degree at Western Maryland University.

Meier, a third year medical student, is the son of Dr. and Mrs. John A. Meier of Albany. He is the 1978 winner of the Lange Medical Publications Award at MCG.

The Whitaker Scholarships were established in 1977 through a bequest of May Whitaker Walton in memory of Courtland Daniel Whitaker, a 1927 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia. Whitaker, a surgeon, was born in Harlem, and attended the University of Georgia for two years before entering MCG.

Garris Trippe Jones, a freshman medical student, is the first recipient of the Desiree L. Franklin Scholarship, valued at $2500 yearly.

Jones, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Garris Trippe Jones, Augusta, is a graduate in general management of Georgia Tech and has a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Georgia.

Desiree L. Franklin, born in Augusta, lived in New York much of her life. She was an active philanthropist in New York City, where she died in 1976. MCG received $100,000 from her estate to be used as endowment for establishing scholarships.

These scholarships provide financial assistance for deserving students preparing to serve as health professionals.

Energy engineer appointed

Zane Murphy was named energy management engineer for the Medical College of Georgia. Murphy previously worked with the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., in the Energy Information Administration. His main task will be to direct the energy conservation program to be implemented in early 1981.

Haley honored by Governor Busbee

Mrs. Eloise Haley, a member of the President's Advisory Council was presented with the Governor's Award in the Arts by Governor George Busbee earlier this year in ceremonies held in Atlanta.

The Albany native has been one of the state's outstanding leaders in the arts and is involved with a wide range of arts activities. Some of these activities include forming the Southwest Georgia Art Association, serving on the Board of the Albany Little Theatre and working with the Albany Area Arts Council.

In making the award presentation Governor Busbee said, "I'm pleased to recognize the unselfish, quiet service of one of our state's most outstanding patrons of the arts."

Herpes simplex research

Dr. James Hill, associate professor of cell and molecular biology at the Medical College of Georgia, was awarded a $256,689 grant from the National Eye Institute for the study of ocular *herpes simplex* infections. This includes the chemotherapy, latency and reactivation of the viruses.

Dr. Louis Gangarosa, professor of pharmacology and oral biology is co-principal investigator.

Other MCG personnel involved in the grant are Dr. Byoung Se Kwon, Dr. Keith Green, Dr. David Hull, Dr. Gene Colborn, and Dr. Rollie Harp.

Med Techs bring home honors

Early in May five senior medical technology students at MCG won first place in the Medical Technology Student Bowl in Lexington, S.C.

Later that month they represented Georgia in the seven-state regional competition in Charleston, S.C., where they placed fourth.

The students were asked questions concerning all aspects of medical technology during the competition.

Team members are: Maria Hulebuas, Brenda Dorough, Angela Duke, Harriet Linyard and Roger Lovell. Their faculty coordinator was Susan Barnwell.

"eine faszinierende Frau"

by Julie Guillebeau

She's a scholar, a physician, a researcher — "eine faszinierende Frau." That's how Dr. Holde Puchtler is often described.

Dr. Puchtler, professor of pathology at MCG for 21 years, commands such international respect that a fall pathology symposium was named in her honor.

The Department of Pathology, (Dr. A. Bleakley Chandler, chairman) and the Southern Society of Anatomy, whose president is Dr. Dale Bockman, MCG chairman of anatomy, hosted the Oct. 15 symposium on connective tissue. Known as the Puchtler Symposium, the one day scientific session was held in conjunction with the Southern Society's 20th annual meeting, and brought international leaders to the MCG campus. Dr. Thomas McDonald, medical associate dean for basic sciences, was chairman of the symposium committee.

Dr. Puchtler was born and educated in Germany, moving to this country in adulthood. As a histochemist, her major interest in research is the chemistry of dyes.

"For years," Dr. Puchtler explains, "scientists would merely stain their specimens or tissues and they didn't really know why a particular stain worked the way it did. They just knew that the dyes had always worked that way."

Dr. Puchtler has learned why various dyes do what they do, and has broadened that to enable one to learn more from a given slide, since by carefully selecting the correct dye, one can see so much more on the slide. She also has learned that some previously unreliable tests or those that had to wait until the disease had advanced to a certain (usually late) stage can be replaced by more accurate ones, through the use of the correct dye.

She is responsible for developing infrared fluorescence microscopy, a new and very acceptable method of staining and studying sections. This work currently is being published, and a former senior medical student, Dean Paschal, won the Sheard Sanford Award for his work on this with Dr. Puchtler. (The Sheard Sanford Award is one of the highest honors a senior medical student can obtain nationally. Three former students have also received this coveted award.)

Dr. Puchtler was deaf when she came to MCG, but her handicap was relatively new, and she is grateful for the consideration shown her by her colleagues and the assistance given her in adapting her job to her handicap.

"Dr. Chandler has provided me with excellent working conditions and complete academic freedom to follow my ideas and to publish the findings. Dr. J. R. Teabeaut, director of the pathology teaching program, has designed my teaching responsibilities around small groups, manageable for lip-reading."

The physician/researcher continues that she is "aware of certain institutions and governmental agencies who have treated women scientists as outcasts. MCG is outstanding in its support of physically handicapped researchers. I very much appreciate the strong stand of Dr. Fairfield Goodale, dean of the School of Medicine (and his faculty) on behalf of a handicapped medical student. Most MD's specialize; in suitable fields, the handicapped can do just as well as their apparently unimpaired colleagues."

While Dr. Puchtler puts in long days and works hard (10 a.m. until at least 10 p.m.), she has many outside interests, including archaeology — "mostly photographing the sites and enjoying their

Dr. Holde Puchtler

beauty and less digging" — reading, travel, and her aquariums.

Dr. Puchtler relates that she has always enjoyed reading — even at the age of 10, it was one of her favorite pastimes. "We (Dr. Puchtler and her sister) didn't mind a two hour walk over mountain trails, if we were supplied with books." Dr. Puchtler's sister still lives in Germany, and although the two lead very different lives, they remain close. The sister sends Dr. Puchtler their hometown newspaper, and while it arrives somewhat after the fact, it does keep Dr. Puchtler informed. Dr. Puchtler also travels to Germany whenever possible.

Dr. Puchtler enjoys travel, though not by air, due to her hearing difficulties. The lack or oftentimes difficult land travel schedules don't daunt her, however. On one trip to Mexico, she had planned to travel with a shipping company. She arrived in Mexico without mishap, but unfortunately, her return ship had an accident and didn't return to Mexico. She then, in a few hours' time, made arrangements to travel across Mexico by bus and catch a Russian shipping line to the coast.

A Christmas holiday trip is how she came to have her two aquariums and their complements of fish. She had decided to visit an archaeological museum in Mexico, since she didn't want to spend Christmas alone in her apartment. When she returned from the trip, "Santa" had left her the fish. Dr. Puchtler is confident that one of her assistants (if not both) had something to do with the gift.

Her two assistants, Susan Meloan and Faye Waldrop, have been with Dr. Puchtler some 21 years. And, today, their enthusiasm and regard for the lady is as great as ever. They describe her as remarkable, intelligent, and just plain nice. Indeed, she is all that. They also says she's a perfectionist, knowing what she wants and how to get it.

Dr. Puchtler considers herself very fortunate that Mrs. Waldrop and Mrs. Meloan have stayed with her so long, adding that she "hopes they will remain until my retirement. Besides their collaboration in research, both are immensely helpful in easing various problems of deafness, such as, making phone calls or driving me to shops that cannot be reached by public transportation."

Dr. Puchtler, a naturalized U.S. citizen, also has some views on the equal rights movement. "There are too many scare stories; no one has looked at the countries that have had equal rights for years. In Germany, women have been equal for more than 30 years, and yet today German women aren't drafted and do not serve as volunteers in the armed forces."

She remembers in medical school she and her fellow female students felt no shame for being intelligent, or for making better grades than their male counterparts. "The men were proud to date a smart woman and expected her to be well versed in scientific and/or cultural fields."

Politics is something on which Dr. Puchtler has thought and read about, although mostly regarding her homeland. She points out that Germans are very aware that the Russians, with exceptional military strength, are just 100 miles away, and "if they chose, they could just roll over us. So it's not surprising that we don't want to anger Russia."

American politics are something else — as Dr. Puchtler politely says, she has so many other things to do, and there's not much there to think about.

They occasionally trade their stethoscopes for anchors

by Doug Vinson

They met at a welcoming party for freshman medical students in 1953 and became fast friends. Turner Edmondson was already a Naval Reserve officer and he convinced Joe Miller that it would be wise to join the reserves. Miller decided to join and Edmondson swore him in.

Last spring Edmondson had the privilege of commissioning Miller again, not as an ensign this time though, but as a rear admiral in the Naval Reserve, a rank that Edmondson himself had achieved in 1979.

In the entire United States Navy there are only seven admirals who are physicians and MCG has the distinction of having two alumni in this elite group.

Dr. Edmondson, who is presently chief of surgery at the Augusta Veterans Administration Hospital Medical Center, joined the Navy in 1944, the day he turned 17, and at the height of World War II fighting.

"If I had waited until I was 18 I would have been drafted into the Army," he says, "And, I had a strong desire to go into the Navy."

He was trained as a para-medic and served in the Marine Corps in the Pacific.

He explains that Marines are made up of individuals whose sole purpose is to serve in combat.

"The Marine Corps doesn't have doctors, chaplains or dentists. Those are provided by the Navy. All major vessels carry an attachment of Marines. Sailors in general are technicians, not fighters."

The son of a physician, Dr. Edmondson said the idea of becoming a doctor after the war was in his mind when he enlisted.

After being discharged from the Navy in 1946 he entered Emory University, then was graduated from the University of Georgia with a masters degree in biology and from there he came to MCG in 1951 where he was graduated cum laude in 1955.

After completing a year's internship at the Naval Hospital in Charleston, Dr. Edmondson says he had a "chance of staying in or getting out" of the active Navy.

"I had my eyes on being a professor, so I got out," he recalls. He came back to Augusta, practicing under Dr. William Moretz, MCG president, who was at that time chairman of surgery.

Beginning as an instructor of surgery, Dr. Edmondson moved up the ranks to a full professorship. Retaining his teaching responsibilities at the Medical College, he was named chief of surgery at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in 1977.

He has been connected with the Marine Corps Reserve unit in Augusta since returning to the city after his internship, serving his one weekend a month reserve duty and two weeks of summer camp.

In 1976 he was named senior medical officer for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Division. During this time, he traveled constantly, visiting Marine Reserve units across the country.

His efforts earned him the President's Meritorious Service Medal.

"Normally, the position of division surgeon is a three-year tour of duty and is the end of the road. They usually put you out to pasture after that."

Instead of being "put out to pasture" though, Dr. Edmondson was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in 1979.

"The promotion came as a real surprise" says the 53-year-old Moultrie native.

As a rear admiral he serves as a consultant to the surgeon of the Navy concerning Naval medical support for the Marine Corps.

His professional duties and reserve duty haven't left much time for anything else, but he has been able to work at his favorite hobby — photography.

"When I finished medical school I borrowed some money and bought a used Leika," he says. He has bought several cameras since then, gradually upgrading them through the years. Boxes and boxes of slide trays in his fashionable apartment are filled with slides he has taken in his cross country travels.

"Out of necessity, I've had to make my hobby simple. I usually slip a camera in my field jacket pocket and take natural light photographs and slides wherever I go."

The friendship that Miller and Edmondson began during their years at medical school has endured over the years and both of them have been able to enjoy each other's accomplishments in the medical field as well as their achievements in the Navy.

"We both have a common bond in our commitment to provide quality medical care and to build a sound medical program in the Naval Reserves. It was a real honor for me to be able to enlist Joe and then to participate in the ceremony where Joe was promoted to rear admiral," says Edmondson.

Dr. Miller attended Mars Hill College, East Texas College and Mercer University before coming to MCG in 1951.

The Thrift, Texas native not only always knew he wanted to be a doctor, but he knew what kind of doctor he wanted to be, a neurosurgeon.

"As a teenager I received a book on neurosurgery written by Harvey Cushing and I knew after reading it, that was what I wanted to do."

Miller is the son of a Baptist minister, and feels Christianity has molded his life and thinking. While he was a student at MCG, he taught Sunday School at the First Baptist Church in Augusta where he was ordained the youngest deacon in the history of the church. He has served in numerous capacities at First Baptist Church in Memphis, where he and his wife, Kathy have lived since 1955.

"Dr. Virgil Sydenstricker and Dr. Marshall Allen had a great influence on me when I was in school at MCG, both of them were outstanding teachers and were very inspiring," says Dr. Miller.

After his MCG graduation, Dr. Miller did his internship at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Memphis. In 1959 he took a position as research associate in neurosurgery, at the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness in Bethesda, Md.

Presently he is an associate professor at UTCHS College of Medicine.

Since joining the Navy Reserves in 1953, Dr. Miller has fulfilled the old Navy recruiting motto of "Join the Navy and see the world." He has traveled extensively around America and has served as a neurosurgical consultant in Italy and Japan.

(L-R) Dr. Miller and Dr. Edmondson

In 1979 he took a sabbatical leave in order to serve as a special neurosurgical consultant to the Surgeon General in South Vietnam. His work in the U.S. Naval Hospital in DaNang earned him several citations from the South Vietnamese government, as well as the Navy Commendation Medal.

"We learned a great deal about treating trauma victims during the Vietnam conflict. It was the first time in history we were able to treat head injuries within 30 minutes of their occurrence. This was made possible by helicopters. The amount of surgery we did was dependent on how heavy the fighting was. I remember on one occasion we stayed in the operating room for 24 hours.

"One of the most important things you can do to build morale in the armed forces is to instill in the military personnel the knowledge that if they need medical care they will receive it. One has only to travel and observe the medical care, or the lack of care received by the military forces of other nations to appreciate the value our country places on taking care of the sick and wounded," says Dr. Miller.

From the medical point of view Dr. Miller says the Navy is well prepared for any future conflict. This is partly due to the joint efforts of Dr. Miller and Dr. Edmondson and their work with the National Naval Medical Reserve Registry, an organization which Dr. Miller founded in 1973. The purpose of this registry is to identify the Navy's medical reserve needs for the 16 major medical specialties and to be sure there are individuals who are capable of filling those positions should the need arise.

Dr. Miller and Dr. Edmondson have also worked together at their respective campuses in recruiting medical students for Navy scholarships. Over a five year period over 60 students at UTCHS have gone into the Naval Reserve program.

Dr. Miller is a charter member of the Mission Service Corps, an organization formed under President Carter's direction in 1978 to increase U.S. missionary involvement where U.S. activities are minimal.

As an avid aviator, Dr. Miller has logged over 2,000 hours and completed several United Airlines courses on instrument flying and meteorology.

As a hobby he has built several models of various portions of the brain and he also has extensively studied historical, scientific and theological aspects of evolution.

Medical students begin teaching elementary students

by Julie Guillebeau

Medical College of Georgia medical students have moved some of their learning experiences into Richmond County public schools, so that sixth graders can learn about preventing heart disease.

Some 27 medical students, under the auspices of Dr. William B. Strong, pediatric cardiologist, and Dr. Maurice Levy, director of the Division of Educational Research, have developed four program aimed at teaching the grade schoolers how exercise can protect their health; why smoking is harmful; why good nutrition is important; and how to prevent atherosclerosis.

The medical students spent many hours during the spring quarter visiting 17 Richmond County elementary schools teaching the children. Why?

The medical students say it all started with a lecture given by Dr. Strong, pointing out that prevention programs are best begun with the youth.

Yes, the telltale signs of heart disease aren't visible for many, many years, but the disease process begins as early as four or five years of age.

And, prevention is not drastic — usually it involves what we all know to be so true . . . eat right, exercise and generally live right.

But that advice is often more easily said than done. Does a six, or seven, or eight, or nine-year-old really know what is meant by eating right, and exercising right, and living right?

Enter, the medical students. They begin by explaining to the children that when a parent, or grandparent, or neighbor has a heart attack in adult life, those things that caused that heart attack got their start in the human body much earlier. They teach them the word "atherosclerosis," and explain that this disease clogs our blood vessels just like rust clogs a pipe, except it takes years. They tell them what causes the blockages, and then tell them what they, even as children, can do to prevent the possibility of later heart disease.

They are sceptics who believe that these complex medical terms and descrip-

tions of disease are beyond the children's capabilities of understanding. Or, that since the children can't see or feel any of the bad effects of heart disease, they can't be interested in something that only might affect them 40 or 50 years from now. The medical students haven't found this to be true. This may be due to the manner in which the two sets of students approach the learning situation — filled with youthful enthusiasm.

The elementary students readily grasp the concept that they can do something to make themselves healthier, and they want to be healthy — they don't want their "pipes clogged." And with vigor, they tackle learning what the medical students are teaching.

As medical students Lynne Wilcox and Pat Teaford explain, it is their goal to give the children enough information so they can make their own decisions. They do not attempt to force concepts or habits upon the children.

The medical students have developed, in addition to traditional lectures and tests, several puzzles, games, word scrambles and other fun challenges for the grade schoolers.

And it seems to be working. Tests given to the children at the conclusion of the program, as compared to those given at the beginning, showed that the sixth graders had learned the risk factors associated with heart disease, could define and describe atherosclerosis, as well as understanding their role in warding off a possible later-life heart problem.

Outside activities are encouraged, with running being one of the students' favorites.

While this is the program's first year, MCG students are confident that those following them will resume the program. As best as can be determined, this is the only one of its type and scope nationally.

The students have developed an advisory committee so that the program will be continued in future years. Serving on the committee are Glenda Hawkins, Kathryn Kilpatric, Jacque Pye, Ray Tidman, and Paul Cook.

"One of the spin-offs from this year's program, say the students, is the request from Columbia County Schools for assistance in establishing this program in its school system.

And, as Dr. Strong and Dr. Levy say, it's truly commendable that medical students, who are notoriously short on time and are thoroughly immersed in their own studies, devote the time and energy necessary to make this program a success. The students receive neither monetary nor academic compensation.

"Community involvement," says Dr. Strong, "is a responsibility of each physician, and this is one way for medical students to become aware of and begin accepting that responsibility."

Dental alumni president looking to the future

by John Donnelly

The School of Dentistry, the most recent addition to our five schools, has about 400 alumni.

However, Dr. Norris O'Dell, assistant professor of Oral Biology and Anatomy, School of Graduate Studies '72, School of Dentistry '75 and president of the MCG Dental Alumni Association, does not see this small number as a drawback.

"I think we have approximately 35 percent of the dental alumni as active members. This is really a pretty good level of participation" he states.

The Dental Alumni Association is only six years old, having been organized by members of the first two graduating classes. Dr. O'Dell says the newness of the organization gives the association a lot of latitude in planning toward the future.

"Because most of our dental graduates are relatively young and just beginning their practices, many are not yet able to make substantial financial gifts to the alumni association. However, we are looking forward to the time when we will be able as an alumni group to be more beneficial to the dental school, economically and philosophically," he states.

Dr. O'Dell cited examples of some projects the dental alumni association would like to be involved with in the future. "With the present outlook for a decrease in the availability of some types of student loans, I would like to see us come up with a mechanism for helping students obtain scholarships through the Dental Alumni Association," the dentist relates. "I would also like to see us sponsor various programs at the school that may not be funded in the normal operating budget."

At present, the association has two meetings each year. The first is a social meeting that is held in conjunction with the Hinman Meeting in Atlanta, and the second is a business meeting, held for the past two years in conjunction with the Marvin Goldstein Lecture Series, a continuing education course held at the dental school in the spring.

For the present, Dr. O'Dell says the association will be trying to find ways to increase membership in the alumni association and "looking for specific things we can do to help the dental school — given the resources we have presently at our disposal."

The dentist, who holds a PhD in anatomy as well as a dental degree, has a great deal to keep him busy when he is not tending to the growing pains of the Dental Alumni Association. Dr. O'Dell teaches histology and gross anatomy to dental students, dental hygienists, dental assistants and dental technologists ("My training has given me a background that helps in correlating the basic anatomical and clinical sciences for these students") and serves on the dental school's curriculum and enrichment committees. In addition, he conducts research in salivary gland regeneration.

The major activities in his life, however, center around his family. "Most of what I do away from the dental school revolves around my wife and three children. I'm a very family oriented person," Dr. O'Dell states. He adds he does enjoy dancing, basketball and an occasional round of golf.

Asked about his dual degrees, he responds that he was interested in teaching and "there was a program established for those who were interested in dental education to work toward a D.M.D. degree. I saw the program as a way I could focus my knowledge which has helped me as a teacher."

There's an 'apple' for the teacher

by **Julie Guillebeau**

The student sits down at the desk, cassette tape recorder and slide projector in front of him . . . study tools used by literally hundreds of students.

He pushes the cassette "on" button, strains of the **Star Wars** sound track blare forth.

One might think this is hardly the way to begin studying cardiology at a major health sciences university, but this isn't a typical study session. Here, the student is assisted by the "Apple."

"Apple" is a micro computer which MCG cardiologist, Dr. Abdulla Abdulla has programmed to play the roles of physician, patient, examiner, teacher, whatever the student needs.

Dr. Abdulla explains that "Apple" displays its information on a TV screen; the audio cassette provides the sound track; while a slide projector offers supplemental visuals.

The concept is simple — teach the material in a manner that is easy for the students to understand, and immediately test them over what has been presented.

Enacting that concept was not a simple matter. Dr. Abdulla, using personal resources and the assistance of then senior medical student, Fred Weitz, and a biomedical engineer friend, John Henke, built the system from available parts and equipment.

"I knew nothing about computers and certainly had no knowledge of computer language. I give my directions to the computer in plain English; it then converts that information into a program." The physician is confident that this system could be used by anyone for any subject.

"It's not limited to cardiology. It's limited only by one's imagination."

The students like the learning tool, for it helps them practice and test their knowledge in a practical, albeit simulated, manner. With the computer, it is very much like the real patient care world they'll soon be entering.

For example, the student is given a pretend patient with some symptoms. He then must interview the patient to obtain enough information to make a diagnosis and suggest a treatment. Since no two students will ask the same questions in the same order, the computer must be able to act upon certain key words and answer the questions appropriately.

Dr. Abdulla, who has won four different awards recognizing his excellence as both physician and teacher, has programmed the computer to reflect his superior teaching qualities. It is a mixture of compassion, understanding, prodding, quizzing, challenging — qualities always found in good teachers. There's also a touch of humor, for the computer applauds a correct answer and turkey calls a wrong one.

When a student does answer incorrectly, the computer tells him why the answer is wrong, often demonstrating the subtle difference between his wrong answer and the correct one. An example of this is found in one particular question dealing with an abnormal heart sound. The computer will play the correct answer, then play a sample of the heart sound the student chose, pointing out the differences in the two sounds.

If a student feels he's competent in an area, he can prove it to the computer and move on. Or, if the student is really stumped by a particular problem, he can type H E L P, and the computer will guide his thinking to the correct answer. The catch is that the computer will help only after the student has twice tried unsuccessfully to answer the question.

One other reason the students find this compact, portable learning tool so useful is that it permits them to test their knowledge before facing a real-life professor or patient.

It's also convenient for them — they can slip into the study area anytime they feel like challenging the computer.

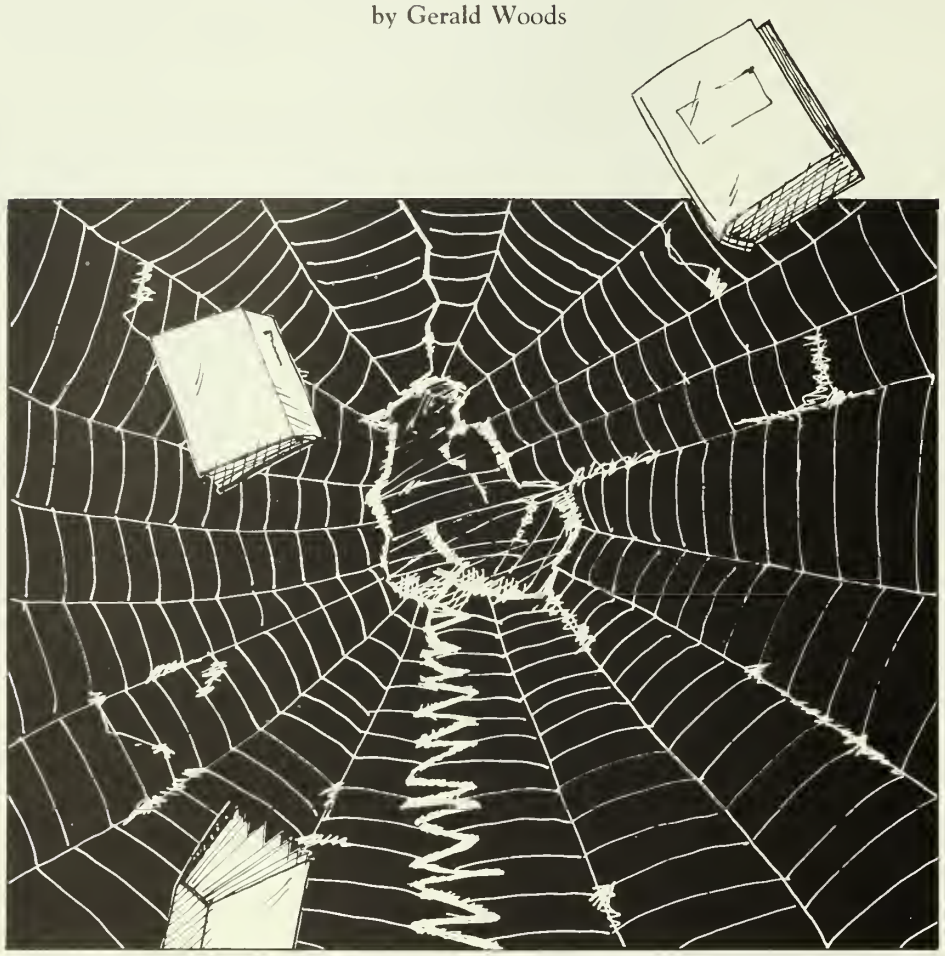
One additional fringe benefit derived from the computer is the realizing of hospital costs. For, as laboratory tests are ordered by the students, and the computer returns the tests to them, it also reports the cost of that particular lab test.

The American Heart Association also is impressed with the system and has awarded Dr. Abdulla one of two national teaching scholars' grants, totalling some $75,000. This money will be used by Abdulla to further develop the system.

As to its future, Dr. Abdulla hopes one day to add a video tape feature to the system, as well as making ths teaching tool available to businesses, other colleges and universities, and anyone else who would like to make learning easier for their students.

The courts and the campus— an entangling web of legal issues

by Gerald Woods



When the National Association of College and University Attorneys was founded in 1961, only 34 schools (out of more than 2,000) were members. Now, with in-house legal counsel considered a necessity on most campuses, NACUA claims more than 1,000 members.

Why? Increased government regulations and growing intervention by the courts are the primary culprits. A look at a few recent court decisions brings the point home.

A student's application for medical school was denied although allegedly less qualified minority applicants were admitted. The applicant sued the school and, eventually, the issue was decided by the United States Supreme Court. The Court, in a rather unclear decision, ruled that a quota of minority students is unacceptable but that one's minority status legitimately may be one of the positive factors in arriving at the final admission decision.

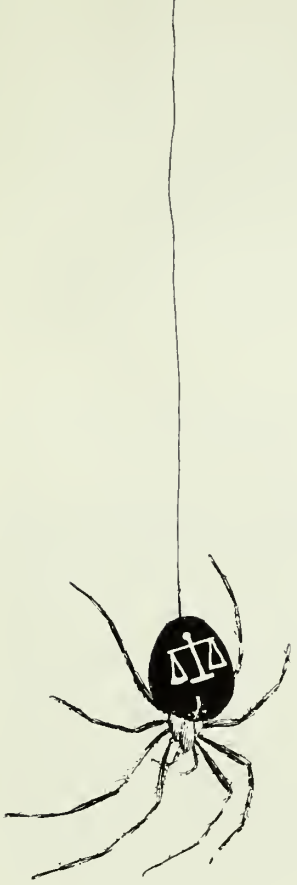
It is acceptable for a medical school, for example, to include as one of its *goals* in admitting students a certain racial mix in much the same manner the school might seek to make the entering class representative of other elements of society (rural, urban, disadvantaged, etc.)

In another case a medical student was dismissed for failure to attain a proper standard of scholarship. The student sued and the U.S. district court which decided the case identified two key questions:

1. Was the student actually delinquent in his studies or unfit for the practice of medicine?
2. Were school authorities motivated by malice or bad faith in dismissing the student, or did they act arbitrarily or capriciously?

The court reasoned that the first question is not one for judicial review because, in matters of scholarship, college officials are best qualified to judge a student's academic performance. The court would interfere only if school authorities were arbitrary or capricious in making academic decisions. With regard to the second question, the burden is on the student to show school authorities have acted unreasonably. For example, the student might prevail if he could prove that he was really dismissed because of a personality conflict with the dean.

In another academic dismissal case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, a fourth year medical student who was on



probation was dismissed for poor personal hygiene, unsatisfactory clinical skills and erratic attendance at clinical sessions. The Justices did not feel that the courts are equipped to evaluate academic performance.

Many other court decisions have not deferred to the judgement of college officials, however, where students are suspended or dismissed for *disciplinary* reasons. In such cases, students are entitled to appropriate "due process," a term which has been defined by many courts in many different contexts. The lawsuits usually are based on allegations by students that they have been denied some legal right in the process leading to the decision to suspend or dismiss them. At one time, college officials could send a student home if they believed an individual was behaving "inappropriately." Today the college must have written standards which state clearly what conduct is prohibited. Individuals who wish to challenge these procedures are entitled to due process, including a written statement of the charges, the names of witnesses and the expected nature of their testimony, a hearing before an impartial tribunal, an opportunity to confront witnesses, and so forth.

Today, college officials are not serving as "substitute parents" for students while they are on the campus. Rather, students are adults whose relationships with the institution are viewed accordingly. No longer are students isolated from the community-at-large and protected by the institution. Their legal rights and responsibilities have been established by the Courts, with some consideration given to the environment within which those rights and responsibilities are exercised.

There is little doubt that the courts have had and continue to have a significant impact on the college campus. The constantly evolving definition of the institution-student relationship will be the subject of many more lawsuits, such as the consumer suits which have been filed during the last few years based on the beliefs of some students that institutions have in specific instances failed to deliver what was promised. For example, Vanderbilt University was ordered to pay $30,000 to eight students enrolled in a doctoral program in management which the students alleged was not properly planned and was poorly defined.

Although there have been relatively few court cases in this area and very few decided in favor of the students, the fact that students may sue the institution when something is not produced as promised is indicative of the changing relationship between colleges and students. Students have even sued when they felt that the content of a particular course was not as described in the catalog and when additional testing requirements not listed in the catalog were imposed to assure that students were properly prepared before being allowed to graduate. While generally not successful, such suits have changed higher education to an extent which is yet to be determined.

Faculty members have gone to courts with their disputes with colleges. For many years there have been cases related to questions of academic freedom and the assertion of constitutional rights, challenges to the acquisition, enforcement and termination of tenure, and challenges of decisions related to the employment relationship generally.

For example, a university hired an assistant professor of political science for one academic year in 1968. The law of that particular state said that persons hired in public colleges were entitled to continued employment only if they had been granted tenure. When the assistant professor was not given a new contract at the end of that year he sued, claiming a constitutional right to a statement of reasons and a hearing on the university's decision. The U.S. Supreme Court said he did not have such a right. Since that decision there have been hundreds of lawsuits filed by faculty members across the country concerning contract renewal decisions. Not all of these cases have been won by the colleges.

Higher Education and the Federal Government

No discussion of the interrelationship between law and education is complete without consideration of the impact the federal government has on higher education through the regulatory process. No longer do colleges enjoy the independent status they once held. The acceptance of large amounts of federal funds has brought the federal government into a much closer relationship with institutions because now government officials are concerned about how tax dollars are spend. For example, that concern has brought about regulations on the employment and admission of women, racial minorities and the handicapped. In some situations affirmative action to hire minorities is required.

There are also other regulations related to higher education. For example, all research involving "human subject experimentation", even if there is *no* risk to the subject, must be approved in advance by an institutional review board (the Human Assurance Committee at MCG) which must determine if the proposed research protocol is in compliance with federal regulations.

Further, an institution's priorities may be affected by federal government decisions, whether from congress or federal agencies, or where and how federal dollars will be spent. Certainly higher education must understand that much of the teaching and research of the last two decased may not have been possible without this federal support, but it is equally important for the federal government to exercise its power with extreme care and some appreciation of the value to society of relatively independent colleges and universities.

The list of legal issues facing Health Science Centers and all institutions of higher education in the 1980's goes on and on: copyrights, parents, contracts, grants, environmental protection, nuclear waste disposal, and so forth, with even more if a college has a teaching hospital like Talmadge.

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Department of Medical Record Administration

Nancy Jones, '75, is employed at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Charleston.

Margie Haslam, '78, has been elected secretary of the Sunshine Medical Record Association in Gainesville, Fla. She is chief medical record administrator at the North Florida Evaluation and Treatment Center.

Beth Williams, '78, has been elected vice president of the Roanoke (Va.) Medical Record Association.

Kay Jackson Merriwether, '78, is employed at the Georgia Medical Care Foundation.

Marsha Rooks, '79, is at Shands Memorial Hospital, Gainesville, Fla.

Danita Austin, '79, is employed at Saint Joseph Hospital, Augusta.

Kathy Robinson Grant, '79, is employed at Greenville (S.C.) Memorial Hospital.

Jim Adams, '79, is assistant director of the medical record department at Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla.

Debbie Belding, '79, is research coordinator of the medical record department at the University of Alabama Hospital and Clinics in Birmingham.

Monty Williams, '79, is assistant director of the medical record department at Hendry General Hospital in Clewiston, Fla.

Nancy Stone, '80, is assistant medical record administrator at Palmyra Park Hospital in Albany.

Marcia Benson, '80, is director of the medical record department at Hillcrest Hospital in Pittsfield, Mass.

Jane Mooneyham, '80, is employed at Talmadge Memorial Hospital, Augusta.

Cathy Gooding, '80, is employed at University Hospital, Augusta.

Elizabeth Dunn, '80, is employed at University Hospital, Augusta.

Stephanie Sewell, '80, is assistant director of the medical record department at Tallahassee (Fla.) Memorial Hospital.

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Cecil O. Myers, Jr., '75, is practicing general dentistry in Americus.

Phyllis P. Mack, '77, has opened her office for the practice of family dentistry in Savannah.

Dixieland doctors

"Code 99," a signal medical professionals know as an emergency call, means something else to many Augustans who have heard a band by that name performing Dixieland jazz. Most of the band's musicians are members of the medical community. The band's name came from the fact that Wednesday night practice sessions were often interrupted by a "Code 99."

Louie Griffin, '63, general and vascular surgeon who plays clarinet with "Code 99" says, "the group dates to 1967, when some members were doing their residencies." In 1969, most of them were in the service, but in 1972, they had begun to accumulate some regular members. The group remained relatively stable for a few years, with "outsiders" filling in when a regular member is called away or unavailable.

Warren Weatherford, pharmacist at University Hospital, is the trumpet player. Bob Parrish, '56, tenor saxophone, is chairman of the pediatric surgery department at MCG. Annie Alperin, pianist for the group, is the wife of radiologist Hank Alperin. Ben Moss, '51, is a psychiatrist. Gil Klemann, '69, internist, plays the upright piano and electric bass, and Joe Bowden, '66, head of MCG gastrointestinal surgery service, is the drummer.

"Code 99" played mainly for Medical College parties and medical functions in its formative years, but now plays a variety of engagements, from dances to wedding receptions. "Code 99" specializes in Dixieland, but includes all kinds of dance music.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Robert McGahee, '24, of Augusta ends his pediatric practice after 50 years. He has served as president of the Richmond County Medical Society, vice-president of the Medical Association of Georgia and president of the Georgia Pediatric Society.

Norman B. Pursley, '48, received an award for 30 years of service to the state of Georgia. He has been Superintendent at Gracewood State School and Hospital since 1951. Before that he served as senior physician in psychiatry at the State Hospital in Milledgeville. Dr. Pursley said, "My ambition in life is to run a good institution. What I find most gratifying is talking to the residents."

David E. Tanner, '50, of Savannah has been selected a fellow in the American College of Radiology

Paul A. Lavietes, '55, of Atlanta has been selected a fellow in the American College of Radiology.

Chenault W. Hailey, '56, of Atlanta has been named to a five-year term on the board of directors of the Medical College of Georgia Foundation, Inc. He is chief of dermatology at Crawford W. Long Hospital and is an assistant professor at Emory University.

J. Donald James, '72, has been elected to fellowship in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He and his wife, Diane, and their children, Brian and Donna live in Waycross.

Ervin D. DeLoach, '74, will begin private practice in Savannah in August.

Andy M. Norman, '76, has been named by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to be a special medical worker in Ghana, Africa.

W. Stephen Taunton, '78, has been elected chief of staff of the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon. He and his wife, Linda, have a three month old son, William S. Taunton, Jr.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Camneron Carpenter DeLoach, '72 BSN, '77MSN of Savannah writes that she and her husband have a son, Daniel, 15 months old.

Carolyn Silvey Myers, '73BSN, '75 MSN is assistant professor of nursing at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus. She has a son Cecil Owen Myers, III. Her husband Cecil O. Myers, Jr. '75, is practicing dentistry in Americus.

Charlene Brown Cotton, '74, is working as a staff nurse at Shelby Memorial Hospital in Alabaster, Al.

Mamie R. Hammock '76, is employed at Floyd Jr. College, Rome as an instructor in nursing.She writes that she is the mother of 3 adopted children.

Joyce Moser Gainey, '76, has been appointed to the faculty of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University as instructor in medicine in the Nurse Oncologist Training Program.

Patricia A. Nester, '76 MSN, is assistant professor for mental health nursing at Albright College, Reading, Pa. She writes that she added baby number 3 to her family.

Katherine Prelesnik Specht, '76BSN, '77MSN is director of nursing education at Hutchinson Community College, Hutchinson, Kansas.

Barbara J. Crookshank, '77, is a captain in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps stationed in Bremerhaven, West Germany. She is attending Boston University Overseas Program.

Deaths

David Steinberg, '24, Forest Hills, N.Y.
Burch J. Roberts, '28, Cornelia
John L. Tracy, Jr., '30, Sylvester
John P. Garner, '34, Homosassee, Fla.
Paul D. DeWitt, '48, Northfield, Ohio

Class Notes

You are hereby appointed as a reporter for MCG *Today*. Please give us the latest information on you, your family, your work, and your plans. If we have your address or name wrong, *tell us!*

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ YR OF GRAD: _____ MCG DEGREES: _____

Return to MCG *Alumni House, Augusta, Georgia 30912.*

Medical College of Georgia
Division of Institutional Relations
Augusta, Georgia 30912

Second Class
Postage Paid at
Augusta, Georgia